



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

June 1, 2011
7:30 p.m.
City Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Donna Fossum, Jesse Jennings, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey, Louisa Ward and Justin Wilson

Staff Present: Abi Lerner -T&ES, Karen Callaham -T&ES, Sandra Marks - T&ES, Jim Maslanka - T&ES, Brad Putzier - DASH, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Steve Kaii-Ziegler - P&Z

A quorum being present, the Chair called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

1. May 4, 2011 Minutes

Chair Posey asked if there were any changes to be made to the May minutes. It was recommended to change Co-Chair to Vice Chair where mentioned in the minutes. There being no additional edits, approval of the minutes was recommended, seconded and unanimously approved.

2. King Street/Beauregard Intersection Improvements

T&ES staff, Lisa Jaatinen reported the main objective of this project is to create a safe multi-modal environment for pedestrians and motorists while increasing capacity and improving operational efficiency. Lisa gave an update on the right of way process and indicated that road construction is expected to begin this spring and completed by 2013; The project is funded by a combination of federal, state and City funds.

3. Telegraph Road Update - VDOT

VDOT staff John Lynch and Jonathan A Jacobsen reported on the scope and current status of the project. They specified work on the final contract began in February 2008 with 75% of the work currently being completed. The contract completion date is June 30, 2013. The VDOT presentation reported on the short and long term impacts on the area as a result of the construction. All beltway ramps and express lanes of the beltway expected to be complete by the end of 2011. The project is on track for substantial completion by late 2012.

4. Funding Update`

T&ES staff, Abi Lerner, reported City Council passed a budget item dedicating an additional increment of property tax to transportation. A resolution was also passed endorsing the City's application of a Safe Routes to Schools grant application. City staff communicated to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) the City's eligibility for transit funding from CTB as a result of budget passed by Council on May 2, 2011. The Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved a TIP amendment to perform a study on the viability of transit on Woodrow Wilson Bridge. A report was received by TPB on governance of several transit agencies in other metropolitan areas. WMATA discussed proposed bylaw and procedure changes with members of the Governors and Mayors workgroup and MWGOG/BOT Task Force. WMATA received information on criteria to develop new station names. Station names must be submitted to WMATA by September 2011. A motion was made to encourage City Council to utilize previous public input provided in renaming City metro stations, most especially King Old Town and proceed at a pace to do so. The motion was seconded, voted on and unanimously approved. The Northern Virginia Transportation Council (NVTC) produced a presentation on the real-time bus information system and held discussions on the BRAC relocations in the region.

5. King Street Metro Improvements

Staff received comments on the King Street Improvements project at the May 4 Transportation Commission general meeting and public hearing; WMATA's internal staff meeting on May 5; meeting between City and DASH staff on May 10. There were questions and/or comments concerning the kiss-and-ride; way finding; cement sidewalks; more taxi layover spaces; improved bicycling features; how current plan leaves little room for expansion; additional space for shuttles/school buses; brick sidewalks on the perimeter of site set in concrete; King Street/Daingerfield/Diagonal, Duke /Diagonal and Daingerfield /Duke intersection analyses to review bus, vehicular and pedestrian movements; and trees provided in accordance with City criteria. The City, in conjunction with WMATA, and WMATA's consultant Gannett-Fleming, are refining the design to address comments.

6. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRP) Update

T&ES staff Abi Lerner distributed the finalized list of long range transportation projects, programs and studies. Projects previously on the list and now removed are the result of some portion of funding received. Other projects were placed on the priority list to received funding from the portion of real property tax revenues dedicated for transportation projects. Once any portion of funding is obtained, projects are always moved to the CIP list. A motion was made, seconded, voted on and approved to endorse the final LRP list and forward to City Council, recommending their approval.

7. Revised Transportation Project List

City Council did not pass the proposed 12.5 cent Commercial Real Estate Tax to be used toward priority transportation projects. However, Council did approve a 2.2 cents reserve of real property tax revenues to be used for priority transportation projects. The reduced funding caused the initial list of priority ten year transportation projects to be revised. Staff asked the Transportation Commission subcommittee for input on the revised list prior to finalizing the

list for City Council consideration. A motion to approve the list of projects was made, seconded, voted on and approved.

8. Staff Updates

Abi Lerner announced that the Transportation Commission received a request from the City's Legislative Director for input on legislative proposals for the 2012 General Assembly. It was recommended the Transportation Commission establish a subcommittee to draft the Legislative Package for the 2012 General Assembly. Commissioners Jennings and Mitchell volunteered to form that subcommittee and prepare a report for the next Transportation Commission meeting.

Abi Lerner reminded Commissioners of prior discussions requesting CMAQ RSTP funding on an extended basis instead of yearly. Per VDOT direction, we are now requesting a 6 year basis. Discussions will ensue in September regarding FY 18 for potential modification compared to what was requested previously. Commissioners were asked to be prepared to share their thoughts at the September meeting.

Abi Lerner distributed a letter from the Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) Chairman Abramson to the Transportation Commission. The letter relates to DASH's operating versus capitol allocation and deficits.

BRAC-133 – The US House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012 delaying full occupancy of BRAC facilities for a year and restricting parking capacity pending completion of road improvements. The legislation must now pass the US Senate. VDOT committed \$80 million for long term road improvements in the Mark Center vicinity. The Army transferred \$20 million to fund short and midterm road improvements in the same area. DASH agreement was executed to provide enhanced transit services between King Street Metro and the Mark Center. DOD will subsidize bus services so their employees and contractors can ride free. DOD and WMATA agreed in principle to an express shuttle service between the Pentagon and Mark Center. Council approved new daytime parking district in neighborhoods adjacent to Mark Center. T&ES began conducting traffic counts throughout west end neighborhoods. BRAC Mark Center occupancy set to begin August 9, 2011.

Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study – Alternative D is the preferred alternative in Corridor C until Alternative G becomes feasible and can be implemented. Alternative D will be on City Council's public hearing agenda in September. City staff and the consultant will prepare concepts for Corridors A and B and present them at the Transitway Corridor Feasibility Workgroup meeting on July 21.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:47 p.m. seconded and unanimously accepted.